

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claim in the application.

Claims 1-10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (new). A surgical procedure, comprising the steps of:
positioning an ink dispensing instrument having sterilized tattoo ink therein adjacent a patient;

releasing said tattoo ink through a port of said ink dispensing instrument and onto body tissue of a patient to selectively mark the body tissue to generally correspond to a target location for radiation therapy; and

dispensing said ink dispensing instrument after use on the patient.

Claim 12 (new). A surgical ink dispensing instrument for facilitating surgical tattooing of a patient, which comprises:

an ink cartridge defining an enclosed internal chamber; and
sterile tattoo ink disposed within said enclosed internal chamber of said ink cartridge.

Claim 13 (new). The surgical instrument according to claim 12 wherein said ink cartridge defining^{es} a port in communication with said internal chamber.

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Claim 14 (new). The surgical instrument according to claim 13 including an enclosure for covering said port of said ink cartridge.

Claim 15 (new). The surgical instrument according to claim 14 wherein said enclosure is releasably mounted to said ink cartridge.

Claim 16 (new). The surgical instrument according to claim 15 wherein said enclosure is an end cap, said end cap being removably mounted to said ink cartridge adjacent said port.

Claim 17 (new). The surgical instrument according to claim 12 wherein said ink cartridge is substantially flexible to permit the operator to manually deform said ink cartridge by direct engagement of said ink cartridge with a hand of the operator to dispense said tattoo ink through said port.

Claim 18 (new). The surgical instrument according to claim 12 including a surgical needle mounted to said ink cartridge.

Claim 19 (new). The surgical instrument according to claim 18 wherein said surgical needle defines a lumen in communication with said port of said ink cartridge.

Claim 20 (new). A single use surgical ink dispensing instrument for facilitating surgical tattooing of a patient, which comprises:

- an ink cartridge defining an internal chamber;
- sterile tattoo ink disposed within said internal chamber of said ink cartridge; and
- wherein, subsequent to dispensing said sterile tattoo ink on body tissue of a patient to mark the tissue for radiation therapy, said ink cartridge is discarded.